

Mr. Chair,

Speaking from the Chair of the **Federated States of Micronesia**, I also speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Island UN member countries national statistical offices.

In response to the points for discussion in Paragraph 51:

- We acknowledge the progress made on work relating to Environmental- Economic Accounting thus far, and we remain committed to the work being done.
- Applying this work in the Pacific region, our views remain the same as expressed during the 45th UN Statistical Commission meeting.

In our region, as it has been well documented, climate change, rising water levels and the effect of economic and other human activity on the environment remain pressing issues, and place a huge demand to monitor their impact on the environment; having said this, most smaller Pacific Small Island Developing States NSOs simply do not yet have the capacity to adopt SEEA. While Samoa has already put in place one environment Statistician, and Fiji is in the early stages of preparation towards compilation of Satellites Accounts, this is an area at the moment, out of reach for most other NSOs.

While we, as National Statisticians, agree that environmental accounts are necessary in the Pacific, most of our NSOs simply do not have the resources to take them up, with priorities better accorded to regularly compile more basic statistics like national accounts, balance of payments, trade statistics and prices. However, we believe that with well-coordinated and early help from technical partners and developmental partners, we may be able to make good progress in adopting SEEA.

Thank you Mr Chair.